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SALT LAKE CITY, - OCT. 25, 1904

A NEED OF THE TIMES.

The movement that has been started by a number of benevolent and sensible citizens for the proper alleviation of distress, for imparting aid to the worthy indigent, for providing poor transients with food and shelter, and for protecting the general public against the importunities and deceptions of the professional mendicant and impudent "graffer," is one that commends itself to every rational and kindly person.

The need of some such society as that proposed—"The Salt Lake Charity Association," is evident to all who know anything of the situation here. There are many persons, particularly in the winter season, who suffer for need of food, clothing, fuel and shelter. They are chiefly individuals who are not connected with the religious societies, which usually look after the poor of their own flocks. The latter-day saints have an organized system for the relief of the poor, and there is no necessity for members of their church to solicit aid from other sources, under ordinary circumstances. To some extent we presume this is true of other religious bodies.

There are people, however, who are ready to take advantage of every chance to obtain help from generous persons and who make a business of begging. There are also traveling mendicants who make up all kinds of tales to work upon the sympathies of the charitably disposed, and usually succeed in getting something for their deception. These professional cadgers ought not to be permitted to impose on the public, or on any lady or gentleman too tenderhearted to stand against their wiles. If individual alms-giving is abolished and all importuning persons are sent to a place where the deserving poor, whether residents or transients, will be sure of help, and the graffer be sure of being turned down, much benefit will accrue and a great nuisance will be abated.

Every contributor to the funds of the charity association will be entitled to send to its offices claimants for relief, who will be helped if they are deserving of aid, but will be exposed if they are grafters. A committee will at once proceed to formulate articles of incorporation and take steps for the completion of the organization which we believe will obtain the support of people of all classes, parties and persuasions. It will be non-sectarian, and will not interfere with any charitable work or society. It will do away with the need for individual alms-giving, and save much time to business men in listening to the doleful stories of impostors, and also the sorrowful pleadings of the really distressed, for all can be referred to the charity association. It is a movement to be highly commended.

THE TRICK WILL NOT WORK.

The Nampa, Idaho, Herald gives particulars of the visit and address of Mrs. J. Ellen Foster, about which some criticisms have been made with the usual deviations from the exact truth that are common during campaigning periods. We notice the lady's remarks because they related to certain alleged "Mormon" practices which have been misconstrued, and we copy from a non-"Mormon" paper its version of her address. The Nampa Herald says:

"I know something of the conditions in Idaho, and my belief is that no plural marriages have been sanctioned by the Mormon Church since the manifesto was issued in 1890. If the Democrats know that there has been a single case of polygamy, I say to them, bring on your testimony, and the Republicans will furnish the lawyers and the jurors to convict these polygamists. Now, then, come on or shut up."

"This was the challenge uttered by Mrs. J. Ellen Foster, the famous Republican orator, at the Dewey Assembly Hall last evening, and was greeted with applause by the large audience, composed largely of ladies."

"Continuing, Mrs. Foster said: 'I wish to beg your pardon for using such harsh language. You who have heard me speak before never heard me express myself in this way. But my indignation has been aroused, for it is not right to assume a high moral air to cover a party trick.' There was another burst of applause."

The turn usually made by the anti-"Mormon" sophists when such a challenge as that issued by Mrs. Foster is made, is to cite the cases of some men who married plural wives many years ago and who still maintain the relationship. That may answer the purpose of the tricksters, but it does not carry with people posted on the situation. "A single case of polygamy" means just what the law defines it to be, namely, the act of marrying a plural wife. Proof of a case of that kind of recent date or within the time fixed by the statute of limitations is what the challengers mean, for they could not prosecute under other conditions. They do not refer to any of these but that of polygamy, the recent marriage of a man to a woman when he has a legal wife living and undivorced. The assumption of "a high moral air to cover a party trick" is indeed disgusting, and likely to arouse the indignation of every just person. And when it is "haunted" before the public by individuals whose lives are not of a kind to be printed or exposed before a mixed audience, it becomes the more offensive and vile. The trick is seen through by people who are not blinded by prejudice, and all the bluster and parading of old cases that have no present application, will fail to effect the desired purpose. It is like answering a challenge to exhibit a white cockatoo by producing a blue and red cockatoo.

THE BALTIC FLEET.

The most singular incident of Russia's present campaign is the alleged attack of the Baltic squadron upon a peaceful flotilla of fishermen in the North sea. In previous cases of interference with neutral vessels upon the high seas, the excuse has been the necessity of exercising vigilance in the matter of contraband of war. But this incident is utterly inexplicable, unless, indeed, all the Russian officers had just celebrated the commencement of their eastern crusade, and, as a consequence, were in a condition in which British fishing smacks appeared to them to be Japanese men-of-war. The story is almost beyond belief. Were it not so well authenticated, it might be charged with the sensational fakes of the day. But it is, no doubt, true. It is a strange truth; stranger than fiction.

The Russian diplomats refuse to express any opinion until the report of the Russian admiral shall have been received. This is natural. But no explanation he can make, short of a denial of the alleged facts, can amount to anything. The admiral may say that he, or whoever else was responsible, mistook the signals of the fishermen for war signals, or that some other mistake was made; but that only aggravates the case. A naval officer, in whose hands millions of dollars' worth of property, and thousands of lives, are entrusted; and whose slightest indiscretion may mean a terrible war between nations, has no business to make such a mistake as that. By making it, he proves himself unworthy of the trust.

There is particularly one incident of the story that the Russians will be forever unable to explain. It appears that when they had finished their barbarous work, and caused all the damage they dared to, they fled. Did they discover that they had fired on vessels belonging to a neutral power, and leave the scene of murder without offering any aid to the innocent victims? Or, were they under the impression that they had met a Japanese squadron, and did they flee without endeavoring to completely annihilate it? Here is a dilemma. Either horn of it is equally fatal.

It appears to be a case in some respects parallel to our case of the Maine, which, though not actually charged to the Spanish government, yet aroused such indignation in this country, that war became inevitable. If the British sentiment is aroused to a similar pitch, the consequences will be grave. It is greatly to be hoped that the incident will not cause a rupture, at this time, between Great Britain and Russia. The leading statesmen of the nations will exert all their influence, to prevent it. Still, when the Bear goes too near the Lion, the danger of a rampus will not be denied.

The best the Russian government can do, should the North Sea story, as now published, prove correct, is to settle with Great Britain on the best terms obtainable, and then recall the admiral and other officers of the Baltic fleet. Men who can commit such blunders cannot be depended upon to fight battles.

By the way, the Baltic fleet, when last heard from, was passing Bornholm, in a north-easterly direction. So the dispatch said. Why did it not continue that course? It might at this time be safe at Riga, or some other port, instead of playing the antics of an escaped lunatic upon the high seas.

SAVAGE WAREFARE.

They are slowly counting the losses of both armies at the recent encounters south of Mukden, and considering the fact that the carnage decided nothing, except the inability of Kuropatkin to re-take the Liao Yang peninsula, it must be set down as one of the most deplorable battles of history. Accurate figures are not to be had on the casualties of any great battles, but according to the best estimates, it is probable that that conflict will turn out to have been one of the most sanguinary of modern history. It is probable that no other army in the history of modern warfare ever had as many of its soldiers killed as the Russians lost at Sha-ho. At Gravelotte the German killed and mortally wounded amounted to 4,449; and at Gettysburg 3,063 Federals and 3,803 Confederates died on the field. In the Napoleonic wars, Borodino and Leipzig were the bloodiest battles. Allison puts the French losses at 30,000 and the Russian at 45,000 at Borodino, but these figures are disputed. The total casualties at Sha-ho are now estimated at perhaps 80,000.

The Moscow correspondent of the London Daily News furnishes a most graphic description of the preceding encounter at Liao Yang, which gives a good idea of the methods of warfare, when Slav and Jap meet. He says in part:

"The fierceness of the shell-fire was amazing. The whole sky line for 10 versts was constantly barred with vivid streaks of fire. Not more than half the shells exploded, but those which did caused the most appalling losses, and a shoulder passed all along the trenches at each explosion. Capt. Yassileff's head was taken clean off by one which did not however burst, but lay on the ground bloody and horrible until the men kicked earth over it. Another shell fell in a salient, and killed or wounded every man. We had seven German colonists from South Russia in the second line, and these men sang hymns all the morning, much to the amusement of their orthodox brethren, who said, 'The Niemetsi are afraid of being killed.' All in fact, were killed or hurt before evening except one, who continued his hymn."

"At 1 o'clock the supply of rifle ammunition gave out temporarily, and the fire from the machine guns failed to stop the enemy. As the millet had been cut down, they gathered and took shelter behind an undulation of the

ground, and after what seemed interminable preparation, came on in dense masses. In attack very nearly succeeded. With a tremendous roar the Japs dashed on to the wolf-pits, whence they had to be pulled out. Our men held their bayonets grimly, but not without fright, as they could not fire. Luckily the Japanese were not properly supplied with wire cutters. However, they tore a gap through in one place, and came on in a funnel-shaped thick mass, shouting loudly. Then the machine guns concentrated a cross-fire, and the whole mass collapsed like a pack of cards."

"If the enemy had laid down and fired they would have cut half of our ammunitionless men up. They were too eager, and continued to pour in, finally getting right into the trenches. There, as usual, they first cut close quarters, while our men rushed out and engaged them with the bayonet. The scene here was sickening, and enough to make a witness a peace man for life. The faces of our men were lit up with a diabolical blood-thirstiness, and the active, emotionless men of the Japanese seemed equally detestable."

"One of our men, a Siberian, named Alexandroff, hopped about like a wild-man, shouting, 'Give them no mercy!' A minute later he went down with a bullet, and a Japanese, as if he had understood the cry, coolly thrust in a bayonet and ended his groans. This Jap next moment had his arm slashed clean off by an officer's sword, and the arm lay across Alexandroff's dead body, and was, no doubt, buried with it."

"Many of the Japs got caught altogether on the barbed wire, and the few cartridges which remained were used for shooting them down as they struggled and writhed. One Jap officer's face was covered with blood, but he continued to struggle until shot with a pistol, whereupon he stretched himself out, lay across the wire with outstretched arms, as if swimming. For some reason, which no one knows, Jap after Jap, risking his life, came up and tried to drag off the body, but all were knocked over. At last, Lieut. Gribsky, imagining that the dead Jap had something important on him, rushed out with four men, and tried to bring it in. But when the Japs saw this they turned, rushed forward, firing furiously, and bayoneted two of the men. The body lay there for four hours, and no one was able to approach it. When at last it was brought in, by our men we found in the pockets nothing except personal papers and a curious disc of steel with an inscription on it. We suppose it was a regimental talisman."

"After the failure of this attack, the Japs bombarded us for two hours, causing heavy losses, but failing to put any of our guns, which were masked, out of action. They then began a new infantry attack. Despite the fall of hundreds, they came on, and collecting in great numbers, in the same undulation, rushed the advanced trench, killing every man in it, and thundering into the works near which I was at work."

"Our men held the trench resolutely. Swearing and shouting, they shot and stabbed until nearly every man was killed. The Japs continued to pour in, and finally occupied two-thirds of the whole line. Then our men to the north began to enfilade them, and they melted away. Some lay down, and were bayoneted by the reinforcements sent from the rear trenches. A horrible massacre ensued, when they began to retreat, as they could only get away through the gaps in the entanglements, and on these we concentrated such a fire that not one man passed unscathed. In three minutes the gaps were choked with dead and wounded men, and the still retreating Japs had to clamber over the bodies, which not one succeeded in doing without being shot."

This is terrible reading, but the pictures presented, realistic though they are, utterly fail to give an adequate idea of the special degree of "hell" war actually is. The correspondent goes on to say that the soldiers quarreled among themselves regarding the number each one had butchered. One bragged loudly that he had "sent thirty Japanese to hell," and then he was struck with a bullet that ended his life. Blood flowed down into the trenches, and the soldiers made little dams to keep it from making the ground under them slippery. A Japanese leg was passed along the line of soldiers, causing much laughter on account of the shape of the foot and the color of the skin. And the worst of it is that such scenes harden the hearts and turn human beings into demons. The correspondent quoted freely confesses that he thought no more of handling a limbless man than of doctoring a child with the colic. I know, he says, when I went to wash myself next morning I was caked from head to foot with blood. I had slept soundly and indifferently all night."

The letter is a most powerful argument against war.

Two weeks from today and all will be over but the shouting.

Thus far not one of the "whirlwind campaigners" has raised a tempest.

It is to Kuropatkin's credit if not to his advantage that he has quit retreating.

The best thing that Rojestvensky can do is to enter a plea of temporary insanity.

The Russian giant acts precisely like the giant of folk lore—with great stupidity.

The Russian Second Pacific squadron "does things," though they are chiefly blunders.

Rojestvensky has raised a monument to himself. It has taken the form of a monumental blunder.

When it comes to sinking fishing smacks the Russian Second Pacific squadron beats the world.

Santos-Dumont is constructing his thirteenth balloon. Its number indicates that it will be the unluckiest of a long list of unlucky balloons.

Oyama and Kuropatkin are both entrenching, which makes it look as though they intended to fight it out on that line if it takes all winter.

There are two Mudds running for Congress down in Maryland. Such being the case, how can the pure stream of politics avoid being muddied if not polluted?

The advance forces of the Russian and Japanese armies are only seven hundred yards apart, and are sternly eyeing each other. Evidently both intend to "stand pat."

Mr. Carnegie thinks it would be a hollow mockery to call a peace conference while the sanguinary conflict continues to rage in the Orient. And he might have added, "And just as the football season is opening, too."

To "Correspondent": No, it is not required of any decent person to notice the yelpings of every mangy, defiled, rabid yellow canine, however persistently it may howl and snap at one's heels. Some vile things are beneath personal attention; they belong to police or nuisance inspection and procedure.

A presidential campaign in full swing cannot fail to have many attractions for Mr. John Morley, who has just arrived in this country. He will find it quite different from and equally as exhilarating as a general election in England. And he will find a better appreciation by the people of the issues involved than by the electors in the old country. His comments and those of Mr. James Bryce, who is also in this country at the present time, on a presidential campaign will be eagerly awaited, and cannot fail to be stimulating and instructive. Both are masters of the history and theory of politics, and anything they may utter on the subject as they see it in America will be of value.

PICKINGS FROM THE PRESS.

Chicago Record-Herald.

In time of peace the world should prepare for peace. While war is raging peace resolutions addressed to the belligerents must surely fall upon deaf ears.

Galveston News.

The old theory based upon the idea that the king can do no wrong or that the representative of a foreign sovereign is the one and only person on earth who is above our laws is very distasteful to the American people.

Baltimore Sun.

Elaborate devices for securing the predominance of merit must fail if spoilsmen are set to work to them.

Boston Herald.

Modern engineering could easily cope with the problems involved in downward duplications of a great city's mass. Electric lighting, water supply, etc., would be easily enough applied to underground existence and would make life there little different from that above.

St. Louis Republic.

The lesson of experience plainly is that the relation of all special interests to the municipal interests is so close as to make the standard of good government the safe rule for the community in public and private life.

Kansas City Star.

The latest achievement of the jocular friends of a newly married couple was to slip a pair of handcuffs on the bridegroom's wrists at the beginning of the wedding journey. Sometime a complete triumph is going to be achieved by cleverly poisoning both bride and bridegroom at the wedding supper.

Milwaukee Sentinel.

The effects of the agitation for a noiseless Fourth of July seem to have spilled over into the Presidential campaign.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Commencing with November, 1904, the Waverley Magazine, published for 54 consecutive years as a weekly literary paper, will appear as a monthly. The full announcement is printed in the editorial column of the current number.—Waverley Publishing Co., Boston.

In the November issue of Suggestion, a Chicago magazine of the new psychology for thinkers, will be found articles, poems and selections dealing with psychic research, suggestive therapeutics, rational hygiene, personal magnetism, advanced thought, cultivation of memory, will power and mentality. The tone of the magazine is thoroughly optimistic, and its motto is "Do It Now," which, itself, is a good suggestion.—4020 Drexel Boulevard, Chicago.

TEA

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